

Application No.: 10/066,990

Case No.: 57148US002

REMARKS

With this paper, claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 23 remain in this application. Claims 3, 16-22 and 24-26 have been cancelled without prejudice to the Applicant's right to file additional continuation or divisional applications claiming the same or similar subject matter.

The amendment to claim 1 incorporates subject matter from original claims 3 and 4 in accordance with the Office Action's indication that original claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 is amended solely to expedite the allowance of the application by complying with the Office's indication of allowable subject matter. Nothing in this paper is intended to constitute an admission that the Applicant agrees with or acquiesces in the positions taken by the Office relating to the patentability of the subject matter claimed in this application.

The Office should note that a portion of the original claim 4 continues to remain as a dependent claim because, based on Applicant's interpretation of the Office Action's statements at page 4, section 8, the remaining portion of original claim 4 was not necessary for allowability.

Claims 2 and 6 are amended to address the non-statutory objections to those claims raised in the Office Action at page 2, section 2.

The Office Action has raised additional objections to the claims in view of the teachings of several cited references. However, in view of the amendment to the claims herein, it is believed that the objections raised in the Office Action are moot. Applicant also acknowledges the Office Action's discussion of the Applicant's arguments presented in the amendment dated May 15, 2003. While Applicant does not acquiesce to the statements in the Office Action, there appears to be no need for Applicant to provide an additional set of counter-arguments at this time.

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Applicant has endeavored to address all of the issues raised in the recent Office Action. It is now believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and the allowance of all pending claims is now requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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